

BROADCAST 5031

DATE: July 1, 2008

TO: Local Directors and Foster Care and Adoption Supervisors and Workers

FROM: Lynette Isbell, Director, Division of Family Services

TIME: 2:41 p.m.

SUBJECT: Child Care Guidance for Children Placed in Foster Care

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This document regarding child care requirements replaces the guidance currently in Volume VII, Section III, Chapter B, Foster Care Manual as posted on SPARK.

Effective immediately localities shall make a diligent effort to secure fully approved child care for foster children at costs no greater than the established maximum reimbursable rates. These rates are established in accordance with federal regulatory requirements for child care for foster children and are available at <http://spark.dss.virginia.gov/divisions/cc/rates.html>.

The local department of social services (LDSS) holding custody of a child should consult with the foster/adoptive parent when selecting a child care provider. Considerations when making decisions about which provider to use include such things as the special needs of the child, travel distance from the foster/adoptive home, availability of the provider, provider costs in relation to other providers in the area, approval status of the provider, and the foster/adoptive parent request for specific services. Children's special needs include characteristics such as developmental disabilities, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, sensory or motor impairment, or significant chronic illness which require special health surveillance or specialized programs, interventions, technologies, or facilities.

If the LDSS has made a diligent effort to secure child care at or lower than the maximum reimbursable rate and cannot locate a provider willing to accept that rate, the LDSS may choose to pay more if it is determined to be a reasonable cost. Reasonableness should be determined based on the considerations used in selecting the provider. Providers whose costs cannot be justified as "reasonable" in comparison to costs charged by similar providers should generally not be used.

The types of providers identified below are considered as legally operating in Virginia and are allowable for both Title IV-E and Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) funded child care

services. Authorization of the provider's legally operating status must be verified online prior to use of the provider and a hard copy of the authorization must be kept in the case record of the child. The website or contact information for verifying the licensure, approval or certification status of the provider is listed below:

Type of Child Care Provider	Verification
Voluntary registered day homes	http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/index.html Click on "Unlicensed Child Care"
Licensed family day homes	http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/index.html Click on "Licensed Child Care"
Licensed child day centers	http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/index.html Click on "Licensed Child Care"
Certified pre-schools	http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/index.html Click on "Unlicensed Child Care"
Religiously exempt child day centers	http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/index.html Click on "Unlicensed Child Care"
Department of Education approved child care facilities	http://spark.dss.virginia.gov/divisions/cc/documents.cgi Click on "Department of Education Approved Providers"
Local ordinance approved providers (Available in Fairfax County, Arlington, and Alexandria)	http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/childcare/ http://www.alexandriava.gov/humanservices/info/default.aspx?id=8088 http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/HumanServices/documents/Providers%20Referral%20List.pdf
Infant-Toddler family day system	http://www.infanttoddler.com/providers.aspx